

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00790 031031Z

17/20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 LAB-06 SIL-01 EB-11 COME-00 EUR-25

IO-14 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /152 W
----- 126393

P R 030610Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1915

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0790

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A ' S F I V E A N D S I X

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EGEN US SO CGEN

SUBJ: EXPULSION OF CONOCO'S MANAGER

1. GSDR EXPELLED CONOCO'S SOMALI MANGER (RAMSDELL) JUNE 2 ON TWENTY-FOUR HOURS NOTICE. IT APPEARS POSSIBLE (BUT NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN) THAT REST OF CONOCO EXPATRIATE STAFF WILL BE EXPELLED IN NEXT THREE WEEKS. HAVE STRONGLY PROTESTED RAMSDELL EXPULSION BUT WOULD LIKE AUTHORITY DO SO AGAIN "UNDER INSTRUCTIONS".

2. REASON GIVEN FOR RAMSDELL EXPULSION WAS "SECURITY". COMPANY WAS INVOLVED IN DISPUTE RESULTING FROM THEIR FIRING TWO EMPLOYEES WHO HAD PERSONAL CONNECTIONS IN MINISTRY OF LABOR AND NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE. RAMSDELL AND WE FIRST THOUGHT THIS WAS ORIGIN OF ACTION AGAINST HIM, AND THAT EXPULSION ORDER COULD BE REVERSED. HOWEVER, CONOCO CONTACTS WITH VP CULMIE AND NSS HEAD SULEIMAN AND OURS WITH MOFA REVEALED THAT DECISION ENDORSED AT VERY HIGH LEVEL AND, AS NOTED ABOVE, MAY BE FIRST STEP IN ELIMINATION OF CONOCO OPERATION. HOWEVER, MOFA DIRECTOR
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00790 031031Z

GENERAL TOLD ME IN JUNE 2 AIRPORT COMMENT WHICH I AM NOTHSURE

WAS WELL THOUGHT OUT, THAT HMZCONOCO CAN ALWAYS GET WMOTHER HEAD".

3. WE HAVE PROTESTED TO MOFA. I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPXDL FOR ME TO GAVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON TO PROTEST ONCE AGAIN. WE ARE ATTEMPTING CONTACT ADDOU TO GET HIS SUPPORT FOR REVERSAL OF DECISION OR AT LEAST CANCELLATION OF ANY PLKCS FOR ACTION AGAINST REMAINING PERSONNEL.

4. RAMSDSWL HIMSELF EXPECTS, SUBJECT TO CONTACT WITH HEAD-QUARTERS, TO REMAIN NAIROBI A FEW DAYS TO SEE HOW MATTERS DEVELOP. HE WILL RECOMMEND THAT CONOCO (WHICH HAS SPENT THREE MILLION DOLLARS IN SOMALIA) CONTINUE ITS OPERATION DESPITE HIS REMOVAL IF, BUT ONLY IF, IT CAN QUICKLY GET LABOR DISPUTE (PARA. 2 ABOVE) RESOLVED TO ITS SATISFACTION.

5. CONOCO AND RAMSDELL PERSONALLY HAVE CONDUCTED BUSINESS-LIKE AND DISCREET OPERATION HERE AND HAVE ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF GSDR EXCEPT PORTIONS OF MINISTRY OF LABOR. SECRETARY OF MINERAL RESOURCES BURALE HAS REPEATEDLY CHARACTERIZED CONOCO AS BEST OF OIL COMPANIES WORKING IN SOMALIA - AND HE WORKED THROUGHTOUT SATURDAY NIGHT TO GET EXPULSION ORDER RESCINDED. CONOCO INFORMED GSDR TWO WEEKS AGO OF ITS DECISION INCREASE ITS FIVE-YEAR BUDGET FROM FIFTEEN TO TWENTY-SIX MILLION DOLLARS. IT HAS EIGHT FAMILIES IN MOGADISCIO AND WAS ABOUT TO BRING IN FIVE MORE.

6. MOTIVES OF GSDR DECISION, WHICH APPARENTLY SO MUCH AGAINST SOMALIA'S BEST INTERESTS, ARE UNCLEAR. RAMSDELL SAID THERE HAVE BEEN NO SECURITY INCIDENTS. IF REST HMCONOCO STAFF ALLOWED TO STAY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DISPUTE WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR, PLUS DESIRE "SHOW CONOCO WHO IS BOSS", COULD BE THE REASON. SEEMS TO US, HOWEVER, THAT BASIC PROBLEM MAY WELL BE EFFECTIVENESS AND INCREASING SCOPE OF CONOCO OPERATIONS. IT HAD BECOME MAIN US ASSET HERE, AND HAD GOOD PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE GROWTH. ANTI-US ELEMENTS IN GSDR, AND AMONG SOMALIA'S ALLIES, MAY FOR THAT REASON HAVE DECIDED TO MOVE AGAINST IT BEFORE ITS POSITION BECAME EVEN STRONGER. SOVIETS MAY WELL HAVE PLAYED ROLE. THEY HAVE RECENTLY SHOWN HEIGHTENED INTEREST IN FOREIGN OIL OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA, AND NEW SOVIET UNDP HEAD IS GEOLOGIST. CONOCO CONCESSION AREA, WHILE WELL REMOVED FROM SOVIETS' BERBERA FACILITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOGADI 00790 031031Z

DOES COVER SIZEABLE PORTION OF SOMALIA'S INDIAN OCEAN COAST - BUT FRENCH COMPANY, WITH CONCESSION FURTHER TO NORTH, HAS NOT YET BEEN BOTHERED. EVENTS OF NEXT FEW DAYS MAY BRING SOME CLARIFICATION OF GSDR MOTIVES AND ATTITUDE TOWARD CONOCO AS SUCH. IN ANY CASE, THIS ACTION, COMING ON TOP OF LONG-DELAYED SOMALI ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET AS UNDP HEAD (MOGADISCIO 0741), IS DISTURBING INDICATION OF DEGREE OF GSDR SUSCEPTIBILITY TO ANTI-WESTERN PREJUDICES AND/OR PRESSURES. IT BODES ILL FOR LONG-

TERM IMPROVEMENT IN US-SOMALI RELATIONS AND FUTURE OF US
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY HERE.
KIRK

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NNN

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